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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE AGENDA OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

BUILDING A PEACEFUL AND BETTER WORLD THROUGH SPORT

Letter dated 5 October 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly of an additional item entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum indicating the reasons why the Organization of African Unity (OAU) deems it important to include this item in the agenda, is attached to this request. The OAU also requests that the item be considered in plenary meeting.

(Signed) Nabil A. ELARABY
Permanent Representative of Egypt
to the United Nations
Representative of the current Chairman
of the Organization of African Unity

* Reissued for technical reasons.

ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

The Organization of African Unity (OAU) wishes to request that the General Assembly endorse the appeal launched by the International Olympic Committee to build a peaceful and better world through sport, contained in resolution CM/Res.1472 (LVIII), adopted by the Council of Ministers at its fifty-eighth ordinary session held at Cairo from 21 to 26 June 1993, and endorsed by the Summit of the Heads of State and Government.

The OAU also wishes to request that the General Assembly proclaim the year 1994 as the International Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal, with the clear understanding that it will not involve any expenditure on the part of the United Nations or its Member States, nor will it require the setting up of an administrative structure.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) launched an appeal for an "Olympic Truce" during the 25th Olympiad Celebration at Barcelona, Spain, in July 1993, which was endorsed by the National Olympic Committees of 184 countries and was presented to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The IOC took the initiative of facilitating the participation of athletes from Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Barcelona Olympiad. It should be recalled that Sarajevo was the city where the winter Olympic Games were held in 1984. Unfortunately, all the sports facilities were destroyed and the Olympic Stadium is now used as a cemetery.

The IOC, which is celebrating the centenary of its foundation in 1994 and which is making efforts to restore the ancient Greek tradition of the Ekecheria or "Olympic Truce", in the interest of contributing to the maintenance of peace, has written to 184 heads of State and Government, Foreign Ministers and regional organizations to support its initiative by the adoption of an appropriate resolution at the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

The organization of the celebrations for the International Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal in 1994 at a national and international level will be coordinated by the International Olympic Committee with the collaboration of the International Sports Federations and the National Olympic Committees.

As the objectives of the Olympic Movement are to build a better and peaceful world by educating young people through sport and culture and to mobilize the youth of the world in the cause of peace, the OAU requests that the two initiatives be included in the agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly and that the necessary action be taken to fulfil the request of the Olympic Movement.